

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9250

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS LONDON 00267

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS ON GENEVA TALKS, JANUARY 7

1. FINANCIAL TIMES AFRICA CORRESPONDENT BRIDGET BLOOM:

"...OBSERVERS SEE THE PRESENCE OF A SENIOR AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, MR. WILLIAM EDMUNDSON...(ON THE IVOR RICHARD JOURNEY) AS HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT. MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT WITHOUT RENEWED AMERICAN PRESSURE, PARTICULARLY ON SOUTH AFRICA AND SALISBURY, SETTLEMENT CHANCES REMAIN REMOTE."

2. GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT JAMES MACMANUS IN MAPUTO:

"BRITAIN'S PLANS FOR A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER IN RHODESIA RECEIVED A MUCH NEEDED BOOST (YESTERDAY) WHEN PRESIDENT MACHEL OF MOZAMBIQUE IS REPORTED TO HAVE ENDORSED MR. IVOR RICHARD'S NEW PROPOSALS FOR A POWER-UNCLASSIFIED

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TRANSFERRING PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IN SALISBURY."

3. NEW STATESMAN EDITORIAL: "THE ASSUMPTIONS ON WHICH THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS CALLED HAVE NOW BEEN DEMONSTRATED AS FALSE. TYPICALLY, DR. KISSINGER SAID DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT FACTIONS IN ORDER TO INDUCE THEIR ATTENDANCE.... THIS LOOKING-GLASS WORLD HAS NOW

SHIVERED INTO FRAGMENTS, AND THE BEHAVIOR OF MR. RICHARD'S DELEGATION RUNS THE RISK OF BRINGING THE WHOLE RHODESIAN OBLIGATION INTO PUBLIC CONTEMPT AND RIDICULE.... IF WESTERN SOCIALISTS MADE A REAL EFFORT, THEY COULD HELP THE AFRICANS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA NOT JUST TO THROW OFF THEIR CURRENT MASTERS BUT TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM WHICH WOULD REPROACH THE SHORTCOMING OF KENYA, MALAWI AND OTHER THWARTED POST-COLONIAL REGIMES."

4. ECONOMIST EDITORIAL: "THE WEST, AND PARTICULARLY THE US, HOLDS CARDS WHICH IT CAN PLAY EFFECTIVELY ENOUGH TO MAKE THE RUSSIANS THINK TWICE ABOUT TRYING TO EXTEND THEIR INFLUENCE ANY FURTHER IN AFRICA. BUT IT CAN PLAY THESE CARDS ONLY IF THE SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT IT IS PREPARED TO DEFEND AGAINST EXTERNAL COMMUNIST PRESSURES ARE ALSO DEFENDED BY THE MAJORITY OF THEIR OWN PEOPLES. IT IS MR. VORSTER'S TURN TO PLAY."

ARMSTRONG

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